

REMARKS

A typographical error in the specification has been corrected by amendment herein. In line 27 of page 3 of the specification, "WO 98/907931" has been replaced with --WO 98/31710--. A~~n~~Information Disclosure Statement containing a copy of WO 98/31710 is being filed concurrently herewith.

The amendments presented herein are not believed to represent the entry of new matter into the application. Applicants respectfully request entry of this preliminary amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSIONS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION: (Marked-Up)

The following is the paragraph at page 3, line 27 through page 4, line 12, with markings to show changes made thereto herein.

[WO 98/907931] WO 98/31710 describes a process for the production of finely particulate polysaccharide derivatives by gelling or dissolving a cellulose ether with 35 to 99 wt. % (preferably 60 to 80 wt. %) of water referred to the total weight, followed by mill drying, wherein superheated steam is used to transport and dry the ground material. This process likewise avoids many of the aforementioned disadvantages. However, the comminution in this mill drying process is still not sufficient, and only 57 wt. % of the comminuted methylhydroxyethyl cellulose passes through a 0.063 mm sieve (Example 3). The desired fineness is achieved only by a size classification by means of an air jet sieve. Moreover the use of pure steam as carrier gas and heat exchange gas has disadvantages as regards the operational safety of the grinding plant since films and encrustations quickly form due to condensation of water together with the finely particulate polysaccharide derivative. The expenditure on maintenance measures is thus increased. Finely particulate products that pass in an amount of more than 95 wt. % through a 0.1 mm sieve or even in an amount of more than 90 wt. % through a 0.063 mm sieve are obtained according to this application only by dispersing dissolved polysaccharide derivatives in a non-dissolving ambient medium, followed by comminution, filtration and drying steps (Examples 1 and 2).